

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated January 30, 2002, claim 14 has been amended, and claim 21 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-20 remain in the application. The amendment made herein is not made for reasons of patentability, and no new matter has been added. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

II. Drawing Comments

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, it is suggested under MPEP § 608.02(g) that Figures 1 and 2 contain a legend to designate the figures as Prior Art.

The Applicants thank the Examiner and will file amended formal drawings in compliance with MPEP § 608.02(g) with the Official Draftsperson upon receipt of a notice of allowability for the present application.

III. Allowed Subject Matter

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-20 were allowed. Claim 14 was amended herein to correct a typographical error at the end of the claim, replacing a comma with a period. The Applicants believe that this amendment is not made for reasons of patentability since claim 14 was considered allowed by the Examiner.

The Applicants thank the Examiner and formally recognize the allowable subject matter of claims 1-20.

IV. Art-Based Rejections

In paragraph 3, the Office Action rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Graf et al., (USPN 6,125,314), or Fattouche (USPN 6,330,452).

A

The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, but in order to expedite prosecution, and in light of the cancellation of claim 21, believe that the rejections are moot.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectively solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: April 24, 2002

By: 

Anthony J. Orler
Registration No. 41,232
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Biltmore Tower
500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Telephone: (213) 337-6700
Facsimile: (213) 337-6701

A